Attacks by NATO Forces on Yugoslavia

2682. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the response of Government to the sustained air/missile attacks by the NATO forces in Kosovo;

(b) the assessment of Government of the Russian and Chinese position in the wake of these attacks; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to take up the issue bilaterally with Chinese and Russian Government to constantly take up the issue in the United Nations and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The Government of India has been closely monitoring the developments in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Government's statements on these developments of March 24 and 26, 1999, were based on well-established principles of India's foreign policy. Government have reiterated that the crisis can be resolved only through peaceful means, through consultation and dialogue rather than confrontation or military action, unilateral or othewise. Further, that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yugoslavia must be respected by all States. The Government have expressed serious concern over NATO airstrikes and expressed that NATO's extra territorial engagements is a development that can only cause anxiety. At the same time Government are concerned over large-scale dispalcement of people out of Kosovo.

(b) and (c) The Russian and Chinese position are broadly similar to that of India's. We are in close touch with a number of Governments on the issue, both bilaterally and at the UN in New York and Geneva.

Mobilisation of NAM Against NATO Attacks in Kosovo

2683. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the response of the Government to the sustained air/missile attacks by the NATO forces in Kosovo; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to take up the issue with with G 15 countries and south African Government the present Chairman of the Non Aligned Movement to try and mobilise the NAM against these attakcs and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The Government of India has been closely monitoring the developments in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Government's statements on these developments of March 24 and 26, 1999, were based on well-established principles of India's foreign policy. Government have reiterated that the crisis can be resolved only through peaceful means, through confrontation and dialogue rather than confornation or military action, unilateral or otherwise. Further, that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yugoslavia must be respected by all States. The Government have expressed serious concern over NATO airstrikes and expressed that NATO's extra territorial engagements is a development that can only cause anxiety. At the same time Government are concerned over large-scale displacement of people out of Kosovo.

(b) The Government of India has been in close touch with a number of Governments on the issue, both bilaterally and at the UN in New York